

## 1962 Asian Games: Historical Moment of Indonesian Sports Revival

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**Abstract:** The 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta were an important moment in Indonesian history. Held amidst international political upheaval and a difficult economic situation, this event marks the rise of Indonesian sports on the international stage. Behind the glittering achievements, the 1962 Asian Games are also shrouded in historical complexity. Massive infrastructure development, such as Gelora Bung Karno (GBK), sparked controversy related to corruption, forced demolition and human rights violations. More than just a sporting event, the 1962 Asian Games had a multidimensional impact on Indonesia. This event became a tool of President Soekarno's political diplomacy, encouraging economic growth and sparking the spirit of nationalism. The legacy of the 1962 Asian Games also needs to be examined critically. There needs to be an objective evaluation of the positive and negative impacts, as well as the role of various parties in implementing it. It is important to understand the 1962 Asian Games not only as a moment of glory, but also as an integral part of Indonesia's complex and contradictory history.

**Keywords:** Asian Games, Indonesia, Sports Awakening

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### INTRODUCTION

After Indonesia's independence, 17 August 1945, the government had the desire for Indonesia to appear in the international arena. However, from 1945 – 1950, Indonesia was still characterized by an atmosphere of struggle to maintain independence from the Dutch who wanted to return to power. Therefore, the desire to appear in the international arena, one of which is wanting to appear at world sports events or the Olympics, has not been successful. Even though from 1945 – 1949 Indonesia was still at war to maintain its independence, attention to the importance of sport still remained. This was marked by the founding of the Indonesian Olympic Committee (KOI) in 1947, and Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono IX served as its chairman. The existence of KOI was recognized by *the International Olympic Committee* (IOC) or the International Olympic Committee in the same year (1947), but Indonesia was not able to participate in the international sports event championship which included various sports (Olympics) in London, England in 1948 because circumstances that are not yet

possible.

Indonesia's failure to send its delegation to the Olympics in London, England in 1948 That is, raising awareness in Indonesian society regarding the lack of preparation and the potential for Indonesian national identity that can be achieved through festivals or events activity sport. As consequence from That all, so Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono IX propose For stage competition sport national. For this reason, National Sports Week was born (PON) which is for for the first time it was held or held in Solo (Surakarta) in 1948.

Meanwhile, on 2 - 3 May 1948, the Republic of Indonesia Sports Association (PORI) Conference was held in Solo, Central Java, which recommended holding a Sports Meeting between Asian Countries ( *Inter Asiatic Sport Meeting* ), with the hope of creating a sports event. Asia and Indonesia can host the Asian Games. In 1948, the Asian sporting event, which became known as *the Asian Games*, was still in its infancy, and one of the pioneering figures was GD Sondhi from India.

In 1948, Sondhi's ideas were put forward to the representative staff Asian countries, among other things, represented their countries participating in the Olympics in London, England, And get response Which very positive. Prime Minister India, Nehru, Also strongly supports Sondhi's ideas. The results of the official staff meeting led by GD Sondhi finally decided: 1. To establish a federation called the Asian Amateur Athletic Federation ( AAAF); 2. To hold *Asian Games* every four years, starting in 1950; 3. *The Asian Games* will be held between the two Olympic Games; and 4. *The Asian Games* will consist of sports such as: athletics, swimming, tennis, baseball, hockey, basketball, volleyball, boxing, football, wrestling and weight lifting.

The next meeting was held in 1949, at the same time as the Asian Relations Conference in New Delhi, India. At this meeting, the Indonesian government sent a delegation led by AB Lubis as Indonesian mass media attaché in New Delhi, India. At this meeting, on February 13 1949, representatives from Country Afghanistan, Burmese, India, Pakistan And Philippines, has signed the "memorandum" of the establishment or birth of *the Asian Games Federation* (AGF) at Patiala House, New Delhi, India. Then, by Because There is many obstacle, so AG I suspended until 1951. AG I was held in New Delhi, India from 4 - 10 March 1951 11 countries participated with 600 athletes and official staff.

Indonesia officially stated its desire, intention and seriousness to become the host *Asian Games* For First time that is on meeting A.G.F in New Delhi relating to the implementation of AG I in 1951, but without success. The proposal has not been successful or the Indonesian proposal submitted at the 1951 AGF session in India to host AG II in 1954, because many AGF members were not yet convinced of the Indonesian government's ability to guarantee the smoothness or continuity of AG II. Most AGF members preferred Manila,

Philippines for the 1954 AG II.

Entering the 1950s, Indonesia's modern economic sector was still dominated by Dutch-owned companies. The political and security situation in Indonesia after the Round Table Conference (KMB) is still often characterized by security disturbances, as a form of dissatisfaction in various regions regarding the results of the KMB. P was dated January 23, 1950 Under the leadership of Captain Raymond Westerling, the Ratu Adil Armed Forces (APRA), some of whose members were former *Koninklijk Nederlandsch Indisch Leger* (KNIL) soldiers, with a strength of more than 800 soldiers carried out an attack on the city of Bandung. Then, on April 5 1950, in Makassar, South Sulawesi there was a rebellion led by Andi Azis who was supported by the KNIL. On April 25 1950, Dr. Soumokil (former Attorney General of NIT) announced the establishment of the Republic of South Maluku (RMS) in Ambon, Maluku. In the 1950s, Indonesia was also still facing the Darul Islam/Indonesian Islamic Army (DI/TII) rebellion led by Kartosuwiryo which emerged earlier in 1950. 1949, which was later develop to area other like: rebellion DI/TII in Aceh, led by Daud Beureuh; DI/TII in Central Java, led by Amir Fatah, DI/TII in South Sulawesi, led by Kahar Muzakar and others.

However, Indonesia's desire, intention and seriousness to host *the Asian Games* has not waned. This intention was raised again during the AGF session in Manila, at the same time as AG II in 1954. Again, there is still no AGF confidence in the Indonesian government's ability to ensure smooth running or AG III took place in 1958. Most AGF members preferred Tokyo, Japan for AG III in 1958.

Moreover, in 1955 Indonesia was considered successful in hosting the Conference Asia - Africa (KAA), in Bandung, 18 - 24 April 1955. This success certainly also helped the government's efforts to raise the name and dignity of the Indonesian nation in the eyes of the world. Another motive for Indonesia to host the KAA apart from jointly fighting for the fate of nations in Asia and Africa from the grip of Western imperialism and colonialism is to seek support. international For support struggle "return" Irian Jaya (West Papua) from Dutch control to Indonesia.

Indonesia's success in holding international KAA activities in 1955, also increased the enthusiasm, confidence or desire of the Indonesian people to organize other international activities, including holding the Asian Games (*Asian Games*). Therefore, to seek support especially from Asian countries who joined in the AGF, and to show Indonesia's seriousness or commitment, then during the Olympics year 1956 in Melbourne, Australia, delegation Indonesia No reluctant to convey Indonesia's intention to host AG IV for 1962. According to President Sukarno, in a question and answer (interview) with George Krausz from *Neues Deutschland*, President Sukarno said:

“...no opportunity should be allowed to pass to increase the ties cooperation internationally, both bilaterally and regionally in all fields”.

Entering 1956, the Indonesian government The results of the 1955 elections were still parliamentary in nature. However, the condition remains just unstable and many government programs which did not run well and smoothly. In fact, the absolute conditions that must be met in implementing national development are the creation of national stability, including in This includes ensuring national security. At that time, Indonesia had to face many rebellions, and in the economic sector was experiencing a decline in production, and in the financial sector the government was facing the danger of inflation and budget deficits.

President Sukarno believed that all difficulties could be overcome by overhauling the structure of the government as a whole. President Sukarno's idea later became known by the name Conception President which was delivered to the leaders party And figure people at the Merdeka Palace on February 21 1957, with several proposals including to form a Mutual Cooperation Cabinet and a National Council. In this concept, President Sukarno also stated or wanted to abandon the liberal system in economic politics in Indonesia. Although Conception President had time get criticism hard from Mohammad Hatta, and made things difficult for Alisastroamidjojo II's Cabinet, but President Sukarno's idea or concept was supported by Nasution.

On 10 – 14 September 1957, to resolve various economic, political and security issues, it was held National Conference (Munas) in Jakarta. Then, on November 24 1957 – December 4 1957 the National Development Conference (Munap) was also held. In Munap That present para officers from various area And politicians to find solutions to economic and political problems. This deliberation also has a purpose For return authority government, especially about equalization economics and politics throughout Indonesia.

One of the results of the Development Conference (Munap) at the end of 1957 was in the field of sports, which was related to the previous experience of failure in submitting a proposal for Indonesia to host *the Asian Games* , one of the weaknesses of which was the sports facilities and infrastructure in Indonesia, especially in the nation's capital, Jakarta is still considered inadequate. Therefore, one of the results of Munap is to emphasize the need to develop sports facilities and infrastructure, especially sports fields. Here is one of Munap's results in December 1957:

The results of the Development National Conference, especially in the field of sports, are in accordance with the wishes or wishes of the Indonesian government. Munap's results were considered important to realize so that when it hosted AG IV in 1962, Indonesia would already have adequate sports fields

(sports stadiums). This is of course taking into account that the capital of the Republic of Indonesia, Jakarta at that time, only had one stadium, namely the Ikada Stadium (Ikatan Athletics Djakarta) Which located in land or land field Independent, front Presidential Palace , with a capacity for around 15,000 spectators. Therefore, The Indonesian government really understands and realizes that the construction of sports fields is very important.

However, the Indonesian government's efforts received strong criticism from Drs. Moh. Hatta. Not only regarding the issue of building sports fields, but also regarding the efforts of the Indonesian government in its intention to submit its proposal to the AGF in 1958 so that Indonesia would be trusted to host AG IV in 1962 was also harshly criticized. Hatta was of the opinion that the Indonesian people were not ready, especially because the economic situation was very serious and worrying. According to Hatta, holding AG IV costs no less than IDR 5,000 million (IDR 5 billion). In fact, the peak of Hatta's criticism of various Indonesian government policies was mainly aimed at the issue of the President's Conception, which mainly had an impact on the economic and political fields. This very harsh criticism was then outlined in an article entitled "Our Democracy".

Despite the development and progress of sports in Indonesia around the 1960s it increased quite a lot, however, sport was not yet seen as an urgent basic need. According to current common terms, this policy could be considered an unpopular policy or a policy that is seen as less favorable interest people Lots. In moment part big people Still Lots Which starving, It's hard to find food and clothing, the economy is in decline, but the government remains adamant that Indonesia can or will be able to host AG IV, which of course requires very large funds.

## **METHOD**

Research methods are basically scientific ways to obtain data with specific purposes and uses (Sugiyono). Method is the method used to conduct research on objective data and facts so that it is in accordance with the research objectives so that it can be scientifically proven. Koentjaraningrat (1985) stated that in the true sense of the word, method (in Greek *methodos*) is a way or path. In relation to scientific endeavors, methods concern work issues, namely ways of working to understand the object that is the target of the science in question.

The historical method is a systematic collection of principles or rules intended to provide effective assistance in efforts to collect materials for history, evaluate them critically and then present a synthesis of the results in written form, Notosusanto (1978).

There are five stages of historical method writing according to Louis Gottschalk (1969), namely topic selection, source collection, verification

(historical criticism, source validity, source relevance), interpretation (analysis and synthesis), and the last is historical writing (historiography). The steps of historical research must be followed according to good and correct procedures to produce authentic and credible written work so that it is worthy of being used as a treasure of new knowledge for readers and writers themselves and can be used as a reference or reference source for future researchers according to what is stated in the use of research.

These main/primary sources are documents such as: 1. Collection of President Sukarno's Speeches, Collection of Presidential Decrees, Collection of Daily Orders from 1957 – 1967; 2. State Gazette, State Gazette and annual reports from various government departments/agencies; 3. Presidential Decree; 4. Presidential Instruction; 5. Instructions of the Supreme Ruler; 6. Decree of the Central War Authority; 7. Decree of the Supreme War Ruler and others. Furthermore, another primary source used in this thesis is the AG IV committee report in 1962 which was compiled in a book, namely *The Organizing Committee For The Fourth Asian Games. Asian Games 4th Report* (Jakarta: Dittop AD, 1962), Vol. I. Other primary sources used in this thesis include: The weekly news magazine *Mimbar Indonesia* and the newspaper or daily *Merdeka*. All the sources mentioned above really support the writing of this thesis and can enrich the existing analysis and information.

Furthermore, written sources/secondary sources that support the history of the 1962 AG IV in Jakarta, including writings about the history of the Asian Games, the Indonesian government's desire for Indonesia to be the host, as well as preparations for AG IV include: organizational or committee preparation, team preparation and physical and building preparation such as the construction of GBK, which is part of the history of the 1962 AG IV preparatory work construction project in Jakarta with all its branches and parts which are also stored in various libraries.

## RESULTS

Research on the 1962 Asian Games (AG IV) in Jakarta: Motivation and Achievements, resulted in the following conclusions: First, the motivation that encouraged the Indonesian government to be so eager to host the Asian Games, especially for holding the AG IV in 1962, among others: 1. To raise the name, honor and dignity of the Indonesian nation in international eyes; and 2. Supporting the improvement of Indonesia's sporting achievements which can make Indonesia proud in international eyes. This is done with efforts to increase the development of sports facilities and infrastructure in all sports. Progress in sporting achievements can also support the creation of national solidarity and pride, security stability, unity and unity of the Indonesian nation.

However, the most prominent motive is the Indonesian government's



motive to raise the name, rank, honor and dignity of the Indonesian nation in the eyes of the international world. Therefore, whatever the requirements and whatever the costs for holding the Asian Games for President Sukarno (Bung Karno) do not need to be questioned and considered unimportant, it does not matter, because the political, economic and cultural impact is considered to be far greater than all the costs incurred.

Although at the end of the implementation of AG IV Indonesia received sanctions from the world sports federation, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for mixing politics with sports. However, in general the steps or policies taken by the Indonesian government actually received sympathy and support from Third World countries. In this way, the Indonesian government's motivation to raise Indonesia's name on the world stage can be achieved. Likewise, the authority of the government has more or less increased as well.

## DISCUSSION

Leadership of the Indonesian government involves power and policies obtained through democratic participation. In a broad sense, sports policy is a development sector which is an integral part of the development of national policy itself (Ma'mun, 2019) . Democratic national leadership is the result of a political system that is the main force in developing Indonesian sports policy. Based on practical examples from other countries, it is recommended that provinces use their autonomy to establish more sports schools through government funding, sponsorship and private foundations. They may even combine sports sponsorships using contributions from foundations and governments.

To overcome the low utilization of these opportunities, the Indonesian government should face the challenge by developing a paradigm shift in relation to its sports policy. This is in accordance with the results of a study of the history of PON in 1951 and 1953 which stated that PON matches were seen as an interaction between many forces that shaped Indonesian society in the post-colonial period, including those related to ethnicity and gender. , regionalism, and tensions between local traditions and global modernity (Brown, 2008).

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solidarity and pride, security stability, unity and unity of the Indonesian nation. This incident is an example of a sporting event that provides an arena for political legitimacy through international relations and high diplomacy (Victor, 2009)

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Although at the end of the implementation of AG IV Indonesia received sanctions from the world sports federation, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for mixing politics with sports. However, in general the steps or policies taken by the Indonesian government actually received sympathy and support from Third World countries. In this way, the Indonesian government's motivation to raise Indonesia's name on the world stage can be achieved. Likewise, the authority of the government has more or less increased as well. Separating sports and politics is a very important theme needed to ensure that these concepts and ideas can be realized on the ground and at the same time illustrate whether the governments of the participating countries also accept this or not (Hbner, 2012) .

Second, Indonesia's achievements or accomplishments in holding AG IV in 1962 were a double achievement because Indonesia was able to achieve achievements in two things, namely: 1. Successfully holding AG IV well, safely and smoothly; and 2. Indonesia won 2nd overall champion in Asia (occupying the 2nd highest position in medal tally), and This is the best or highest achievement in the four previous Asian Games held, both in AG I in 1951, AG II in 1954 and AG III in 1958. (Hbner, 2012) the host usually has a more powerful position than the guest and can try to underscores a political claim to a particular central role or mission in the international order or in history. This can be done, for example, through opening and closing. ceremonies, architecture, infrastructure, cultural programs, receptions and media, as has been demonstrated in several Olympic Games held (or planned to be held) in Asia.

Third, the factors that led to Indonesia's successful achievements in holding AG IV in 1962 in Jakarta included: high concern and commitment from the Indonesian government, great support from the majority of the Indonesian people, as well as financial assistance from Russia, as well as from Japan through settlement of war reparations. Meanwhile, the factors that supported Indonesia's success in occupying second place in winning medals were of course due to the team's coaching and preparation which was carried out very seriously in addition to the fighting spirit and readiness to compete of the Indonesian contingent. Apart from that, Indonesia's achievement of success cannot be separated from the



role of President Sukarno, the central leadership figure (Patron of the Games) in this sports competition. His vision and leadership also supported the successful implementation of AG IV. From the idea, idea, proposal, preparation, to implementation stages, AG IV was inseparable from the role and thoughts of President Sukarno.

Fourth, the positive impact of AG IV on the development and development of the city of Jakarta, where AG IV in 1962 also existed. Jakarta, Indonesia also inherited very valuable historical remains, namely Monas and Gelora Bung Karno. Apart from that, Hotel Indonesia, Semanggi Bridge, TVRI, Wisma Warta, Welcome Monument and other abandoned buildings really support the development of the city of Jakarta to become more beautiful and developed. Meanwhile, of course there are also positive impacts for the Indonesian nation, namely: 1. Feeling proud because the Indonesian Team succeeded in becoming the second overall champion in Asia; 2. Indonesia's name is raised and spread internationally; 3. Inheriting historical legacies, especially in the field of developing sports facilities and infrastructure that support the development of the nation's soul as capital for the development of Indonesia's "nation and character building".

Fifth, the benefit or contribution of writing a thesis is not only to try to explain the facts, but also to present more comprehensive data in order to gain a deep understanding of this important competition from the perspective of the Indonesian people. Currently, both students and state officials and administrators of national sports organizations feel the need to get refreshed/enlightened information about the historical facts that AG IV in 1962 in Jakarta which was a national project, a big national work, the facts of the struggle for civilization, a newly independent nation fighting against injustice civilization in the world at that time. It is also hoped that the results of this research can generate or foster positive inspiration for state officials and politicians in making decisions about national sports development policies.

By reading this article, we will know that Indonesia's appointment as host of AG IV in 1962 was recognized as a big leap for the Indonesian nation and brought about significant socio-cultural changes at that time. The holding of AG IV in 1962 in Jakarta also resulted in the transfer of knowledge about how to run sports organizations in a more technical, modern and professional manner and training to obtain better achievements and create a new image of Jakarta as the capital of the Republic of Indonesia. Jakarta changed and developed more rapidly after AG IV was held.

Apart from that, other benefits from writing this article include: 1. It is hoped that it can substantively contribute new information or data from the results of research that has been carried out; 2. Academically, it is hoped that it can add to or complete the repertoire of Indonesian history writing, especially history in the field of sports in Indonesia and even in Asia; 3. Pragmatically, it is

hoped that the results of this thesis research can become a reference or benchmark for government policy in building and developing the spatial planning of the city of Jakarta, especially in building and improving the management and use of Gelora Bung Karno for the advancement of sports in Indonesia; 4. Another thing that needs to be noted is that sports in Indonesia have not received world attention and very rarely appear in international media reports, both in television reports and on the front pages of print media. The records set at AG IV, both at national and international level, are lost in the shadow of other more popular modern sporting competitions. For this reason, the results of this research can reveal more valuable facts for the next generation of Indonesian youth; and 5. The benefits of the results of this research for pupils, students, researchers, historians and those interested in sports studies in Indonesia, namely that it will help to better understand that the implementation of AG IV in 1962 contains very valuable historical lessons about the struggle of an Indonesian civilization in overcoming inequality or injustice in the network of political, economic, socio-cultural growth and global interdependence at that time. In addition, (Hbner, 2012) around 10,000 TV sets were purchased from Japan to give Indonesian people more opportunities to watch the Olympics, which marked the beginning of television in Indonesia. Cars were bought, Jakarta renovated, beggars and prostitutes expelled. Finally, stamps depicting new buildings were used so that even people living in remote areas could see them .

## CONCLUSION

This research is only part of the historical facts of the Indonesian nation which are very interesting to deepen further. There are still many written sources in this thesis that have not been able to be included, even though they are very meaningful for the progress of science, are useful for the history education of Indonesia's young generation and are useful for awakening the spirit of struggle to excel for the progress and glory of the nation and state. Apart from that, with the combination of the successful implementation of AG IV in 1962 and Ganefo I in 1963, with the presence of Monas, HI, the MPR/DPR-RI Building, TVRI and other impacts that accompanied the expansion of the city of Jakarta, as a result of the construction of the Asian Games Complex ( GBK Complex) has succeeded in fostering a sense of national pride. At the same time, it is the forerunner and starting point for the formation of the nation's collective memory. So it is appropriate for us to appreciate and preserve this very valuable historical heritage for the development of the Indonesian nation now and in the future.

By looking at all these facts, whatever and however Gelora Bung Karno (GBK) will not be able to escape from the entire chain of political, economic, socio-cultural and sports history, especially in relation to the development of national character and the process of nation building (Nation and Character

Building). Indonesia) which will never stop. This is also what has recently encouraged the nation's children to designate GBK as one of the National Heritages which is full of historical values. This heritage is not only in the form of "physical" heritage, in the form of land and buildings with very high historical value of the nation's journey, but also "spiritual" heritage in the form of public spaces for nation and character building in order to build a better, stronger, more peaceful nation and character. and go forward.

### **Conflict of interest**

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### **Confession**

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